

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for relating a plurality of system identifications (SIDs) in a mobile device is provided. The method includes the steps of identifying a plurality of SIDs having a common spatial characteristic, storing the identified plurality of SIDs, comparing a SID received from a wireless service provider to the stored plurality of SIDs and, upon any one of the plurality of stored SIDs matching the received SID, declaring the wireless service provider as being a Home service provider. The common spatial characteristic can be postal zone, such as one identified by a ZIP code. In the preferred embodiment the steps of identifying, storing, comparing and declaring are executed only if the mobile station is classified as being in a Prepaid mode of operation. If none of the plurality of stored SIDs matches the received SID, the method further compares the received SID to other stored SIDs, including at least one of a Partner SID, a Favored SID and a Forbidden SID. Alternatively, or in conjunction with comparing received SIDs for the case where none of the plurality of stored SIDs matches the received SID, the method further compares a received System Operator Code (SOC) to stored SOC's, including at least one of a Home SOC, a Partner SOC, a Favored SOC and a Forbidden SOC.